



GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BRIEF



*General Assembly in Brief comes to you from
the Office of the General Assembly and Unified Communications.*

All photographs by Rich Copley unless otherwise noted.



Opportunities for Service on National Committees


The 226th General Assembly elected and re-elected 130 church members, deacons, ruling elders and teaching elders just like you to serve in elected service on denominational level entities (boards, committees and judicial commission) for the 2024 nomination cycle.

There are still a significant number of opportunities to be considered for service for vacancies remaining on the:

- *Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity 2024 (Trans and People of Color)*
- *Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice 2024*
- *Educator Certification Committee (Certified Educators only) 2024*
- *GA Committee on Representation 2024*
- *GA Permanent Judicial Commission (Ruling Elders only from synods: Living Waters, Rocky Mountains)*
- *Mission Development Resources Committee*
- *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program Advisory Committee*
- *Racial Equity Advocacy Committee*
- *Review Committees - GA Agencies: Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Foundation, and Investment and Loan Program*


We invite you to consider if you or someone you know might feel called to share your gifts, expertise and time in service in this way. To create an account and apply, please go to the online application portal at ganominations.pcusa.org. Descriptions, skills, expertise needed and time commitments can be found at the online portal, or you may find that information on the GA Nominations website here.

Thank you for your consideration.

 *Explore opportunities to serve and apply at pcusa.org/nominations*

This GA in Brief is designed for you to download and print for use as a bulletin insert for worship, Sunday school discussion or in a council meeting. All business items referenced can be found at pc-biz.org. We have also included icons as appropriate to indicate ...

 *thought or conversation questions*

 *to learn more, go to the website listed*

Reflections from the Departing and Newly Elected Stated Clerks

Grace and Peace from our Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank you to all who heard the call to be commissioners and advisory delegates to the General Assembly this year. For all others who traveled to Salt Lake City to be in person and for those who joined online, thank you! While it may feel that we came to an end with the close of the Assembly, in reality it is merely the beginning. It is now time to not only interpret the work decided upon by the Assembly but also to implement it. And while that work begins, we also know that there is more to look forward to in this time of transition. One, that transition takes time; we need to be patient as the Unification Commission does its work and as the coming together of OGA and PMA requires depth of conversation and an openness to the Holy Spirit in charting the course to the future. Two, remember that God's timing is not necessarily our timing, so do not be anxious but be willing to lean into where God is leading. Three, you have wonderful people who have heard God's call and were confirmed by the Assembly to lead the church, the Revs. CeCe Armstrong and Tony Larson as Co-Moderators, and the Rev. Jihyun Oh as Stated Clerk. Welcome, Jihyun!



Bronwen Boswell (left) and Jihyun Oh

*Bronwen Boswell
Stated Clerk 2023–24*

As Bronwen noted above and Co-Moderators Tony and CeCe noted at the end of the meeting of the 226th General Assembly, the work of interpreting and implementing the actions that your General Assembly took is just beginning. Some of the work has been referred to staff of the General Assembly agencies and entities, but a lot of the work is for all of us to do together as we continue to become the church that God is calling us to become in this time and place.

I am grateful for this communion of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), for communal discernment processes and for our life and witness to Christ Jesus among us and in the world.

Looking forward to our shared mission and ministry,

*Jihyun Oh
Newly elected Stated Clerk*

Leaders Elected, Confirmed and Honored



Kathy Lueckert

The Assembly elected CeCe Amrstromg and Tony Larson as Co-Moderators of the 226th General Assembly!

Jihyun Oh was elected as the first woman of color to take office as Stated Clerk. Her term begins Aug. 1.

Kathy Lueckert was confirmed by the Assembly for a second term as president of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation. David Dobson was confirmed to a second term as president and publisher of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation

J. Herbert Nelson, II, former Stated Clerk, was honored for his ministry and leadership from 2016 to 2023.

Clare Lewis was confirmed by the Assembly as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program.

The Assembly honored three additional women for their leadership of the Assembly: Ruth Faith Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis for their leadership as Co-Moderators of the 225th General Assembly, and Bronwen Boswell as Acting Stated Clerk since the summer of 2023.

‘We’re Back!’

For the first time since 2018, commissioners and advisory delegates to the General Assembly gathered in person for worship and community. Over 1,300 people traveled to Salt Lake City to witness and participate in the highest council of our church.

The Assembly convened on June 25 with an online plenary followed by 12 committees discerning the mind of Christ through three days of online committee meetings.

After the committee meetings, commissioners and advisory delegates traveled to Salt Lake City for in-person plenaries that began on Sunday, June 30, following worship in local congregations. Plenaries included worship, continued discernment of recommendations from committees, and even a few breaks to do the Electric Slide! The energy in the room was palpable — people loved being together! The Assembly concluded with worship on Thursday, July 4.

Book of Order Amendments to Be Sent to Presbyteries for Confirmation

The 226th General Assembly will send 12 proposed amendments to the Book of Order to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative vote. A proposed Ecumenical Agreement between the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will also be sent to the presbyteries for confirmation.

An addition to the section within the Foundations adds to a list of people whom God unites in Baptism, whom the church universal does not discriminate against in membership, and for whom the PC(USA) guarantees participation and representation was passed. This addition and the Historic Principles of Church order found in F-3.01 were added to the examination of candidates for ordained service alongside the candidate’s ability to fulfill all requirements expressed in the constitutional questions.

Also included is a revision to the number of commissioners to the General Assembly and removal of requirement for concurrences to overtures for the General Assembly. Two proposals highlight the disallowance of nondisclosure agreements when dissolving installed and temporary pastoral relationships. Potential temporary pastoral relationships agreements were expanded from 12 months to 36 months. One adds paid administrative leave for teaching elders, while another adds people with vulnerabilities to the list of council protection policies. Yet another added mandated reporting of child abuse in a second place within Church Discipline.

Presbyteries may begin voting on these 12 amendments at any time, but voting must be completed by July 4, 2025. All amendments approved by a majority of presbyteries shall become effective as of July 5, 2025. See G-6.04 of the Book of Order for more information about amending the Book of Order.



Dancing during plenary break

POL-01 as Amended to be Sent to Presbyteries for Confirmation

The Polity Committee split POL-01, an intensely debated overture from Olympia Presbytery, into two parts — and the Assembly passed them both. Both involved proposed changes to the PC(USA) Book of Order that now will go to the presbyteries for an up-or-down vote.

The Assembly voted 389–24 to change F-1.0403 to add “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” to the list of “rich diversity” that the PC(USA) recognizes as being guaranteed full participation and representation in church life (along with race, ethnicity, sex, disability, geography and theological conviction).

The Assembly also voted 297–130 to approve a change to G-2.0104b, to add “the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403” to the list of topics about which those seeking ordination in the PC(USA) must be asked.

At the heart of the debate: how to balance freedom of conscience with a true expectation of inclusion. Discussion over POL-01 included pleas for the PC(USA) to fully live into its commitment for inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people, and the understanding that candidates being examined for ordination would not have to give prescribed answers. But others raised concerns about whether the change would amount to a form of gatekeeping — in effect limiting the breadth of theological diversity in the denomination.

The Assembly approved one amendment to the proposal, to emphasize in this proposed revision the Principles of Church Order found in F.3.01 — including the principle that “God is Lord of the Conscience.”

? *The Book of Order, alongside the Bible, is seen by many as a book of love. How is the love of Christ reflected within these proposed amendments and how might your congregation live into the love expressed within them?*



From left: Bronwen Boswell Ruth Faith Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis

Fossil Fuels Divestment

Recognizing the urgency of global warming and struggling to find a faithful way forward, the Assembly at first voted for complete PC(USA) divestment from the fossil fuel industry — then a few hours later, reconsidered and changed course.

At first, the commissioners voted 284–146 to approve ENV-02 — an overture calling for the General Assembly to place all fossil fuel industries on the PC(USA) divestment list.

At the next plenary, however, the Assembly voted to reconsider ENV-02, and then to disapprove it by a vote of 264–146 — deciding instead to support an amended version of ENV-06, an overture that directs the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI), which leads the PC(USA)’s socially responsible investing efforts, to identify the top 10 fossil fuel companies that derive most of their profits from the exploration, development and production of fossil fuels, and to immediately divest from those companies. MRTI would also continue engaging with other companies identified by the Climate Action 100+ coalition and could recommend divestment to the next General Assembly of those not making sufficient progress.

? *How are you being called to use your voice, your money or both when it comes to issues related to the environment?*

+ *See more about the work of Mission Responsibility Through Investment at presbyterianmission.org/ministries*

Transgender Day of Visibility

On the recommendation of the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice and the LGBTQIA+ Equity Advocacy Committee, the Assembly approved the inclusion of March 31 as Transgender Day of Visibility in all future planning calendars.

+ *See more about the PC(USA)’s support for the LGBTQIA+ community at pcusa.org/transgender-identity*




The second plenary of GA226 and first in-person plenary since 2018

Milwaukee Chosen as Location for GA227

The General Assembly is heading to Wisconsin in 2026. The Assembly voted overwhelmingly to accept the invitation of the Presbytery of Milwaukee to host the 227th General Assembly from June 23 to July 2, 2026. The Assembly was last in Milwaukee in 1992.

Assembly Uses Equity Primes for Individual and Group Accountability

Beginning with trainings prior to the Assembly, commissioners and advisory delegates to the Assembly were introduced to the concept of equity primes, or questions and principles that can help guide discernment and discussion to be a more equitable process. The concept of equity primes is rooted in the knowledge that unconscious bias pervades much of our systems, actions and process. These primes encourage participants to stay aware of such bias and “prime” themselves for more equitable work. Throughout committees and the plenary sessions, conversation returned to these values to seek the inclusion of diverse voices, assess power structures that may benefit from particular actions, and encourage decisions made with energy, imagination, intelligence and love.


 *Consider ways of implementing equity primes within your own congregation’s discernment and deliberations. How might these serve as ways of measuring/reflecting/evaluating that we are living up to the values and beliefs that are important to us?*

 *See a video about use of primes at pcusa.org/ga-primes*

Christian Zionism Condemned

The Assembly decisively rejected Christian Zionism and called for a study document to be issued examining the ways that Christian Zionism has expanded since the 216th General Assembly (2004) adopted policy declaring that Christian Zionism is not consistent with the basic values of Reformed theology.

The overture adopted also calls on the PC(USA) to clarify, in liturgy and through education, the distinction between biblical Israel and the modern state of Israel, and to work with international partners who are confronting the spread of Christian Zionism in their own contexts.

 *Read the rationale and background for this action at pc-biz.org/search/3001235*

Painful Moments in Debate About Adding Korean Caucus

In both the committee and plenary sessions, the deliberation and debate about recognizing the National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Churches (NCKPC) as one of the official caucuses of the PC(USA) stirred up painful memories for many and caused new pain for others. Several Korean American women teaching elders shared experiences of being dismissed and excluded within NCKPC, their calls to and gifts for ministry unrecognized or even questioned simply because they were women. Male commissioners who were NCKPC members or members of Korean American presbyteries expressed dismay on hearing these stories; they also shared hopes for more official recognition of the presence of Korean American churches in the PC(USA). Others joined in the pain expressed by the Korean American siblings. The General Assembly voted to disapprove the overture without the comment that was recommended by the General Assembly Entity Coordination Committee asking for NCKPC to do research about the mistreatment of “femmes/women identified individuals and report back” to the 227th General Assembly; the Assembly stood by that decision through a motion to reconsider as a way to respond to the pain and hopes expressed throughout the deliberations.

Expanded Ministry with Latino-a-é Community Approved

The Assembly voted overwhelmingly to approve a reimagining of Hispanic Latino ministry in the PC(USA) – including funding an in-person discernment gathering in the first half of 2026. The intent: that gathering will help shape the direction of new programs and initiatives to equip Latino-a-é leadership and congregations to do challenging and creative work in ministry. The action also directs the Committee on Theological Education to organize a consultation with the Hispanic Latino Caucus to explore ways of providing theological education and pastoral training for leaders in Hispanic Latino congregations and worshipping communities.

 *See more about Latino-a-é ministry at pcusa.org/HLcongregational-support*

Money Matters!

Several items were considered related to the budget for the national work of the church, work that impacts congregations and mid councils.

Unifying Budget Approved

A first-ever unifying budget was approved representing the combined budgets of the Administrative Services Group, the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. OGA and PMA will be unified to create one agency in 2025.

 *See the approved budget at pcusa.org/unifying-budget*

GA Per Capita Rates Approved

In discerning approval of the unified budget, commissioners learned how actions taken by the Assembly would impact the GA level per capita rate. The recommended base rate was a 4.1% increase year over year. After adding the financial implications of actions the Assembly had approved, commissioners affirmed a final GA per capita rate of \$10.84 in 2025 and \$11.26 in 2026.

 *See more about per capita at pcusa.org/per-capita*

Changes to Special Offerings Approved

Beginning in 2026, the PC(USA) will reduce the number of denominational Special Offerings from four to three. The Pentecost Offering will be phased out, with the ministries it has supported moving under the umbrella of a reconfigured Christmas Joy Offering. The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be renamed the World Communion Offering, and its funds will be distributed through grants, rather than having particular percentages retained by congregations and mid councils.

The General Assembly approved these changes as recommended in the report of the Special Offerings Task Force. Some key ideas: reduce the number of offerings to avoid donor fatigue, and focus on funding causes, such as reducing hunger or poverty, rather than specific programs.

 *See more about changes to Special Offerings beginning in 2026 at pc-biz.org/search/3001237*

Guns to Gardens and Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence

Moved by sharing from participants who told painful, personal stories of the scars that gun violence has left on themselves and their communities, the Assembly unanimously approved DOE-03, an overture calling for action so that children may live free from gun violence. Among the specific actions the overture calls for: secure gun storage, ending gun marketing to children, prayer, and working and voting to support gun safety.

The overture calls on every PC(USA) congregation “to take some specific action of love and responsibility for children as part of the movement to prevent gun violence, understanding that taking any action collectively as a church is a witness of what it means to be united in Christ.”

Commissioners also had a chance in Salt Lake City to learn more about the Guns to Gardens movement, which takes unwanted guns off the streets and transforms them into gardening tools. The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship offers training for congregations wanting to get involved.

 *See more about efforts to reduce gun violence at pcusa.org/gun-violence-resources*

Synod and Presbytery Boundary Changes Approved; Mid Council Commission Approved

The Assembly approved overtures from each of the 16 synods clarifying the geographic districts of every presbytery, a major milestone in a project begun several years ago by the Office of the General Assembly in partnership with leaders from every presbytery and synod. This interactive map shows accurate boundaries, and OGA is looking forward to adding features to assist mid councils in fulfilling their responsibility to develop mission strategy in their areas.

In the future, when synods and presbyteries request changes in boundaries, it will not be necessary to wait until the GA is in session for approval. The 226th GA authorized a permanent Administrative Commission on Mid Councils with the power to respond to such requests quickly once the mid councils are ready to move forward.

In conjunction with the boundaries project, the Assembly also made the following statement: "The General Assembly of the PC(USA) recognizes that these boundaries for synods and presbyteries are geographic political markers and demonstrate evidence of the removal, relocation and erasure of Indigenous peoples from the land. The PC(USA) is present on the ancestral and contemporary lands of Native people for whom the lands hold historical, spiritual and cultural significance. The use of Indigenous language for the names of the geographic descriptions is a reminder of the people who first lived on this land and called it home. We commit to educate ourselves about this history and support our Indigenous neighbors into the future."



Knowing that there are communities that have no Presbyterian congregations, how can your church or presbytery assist in or partner with others to see ministry flourish within these areas?



See the map of synods and presbyteries at pcusa.info/midcouncilsdirectory